

CHILD CARE LICENSING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Cannon Health Building, Room 125

9:00 a.m., April 6, 1998

Members Present: Dianna Farr; Erin Bitterolf; Sara Croskell; Marilyn Macumber; Tracy Halverson

Members Excused: Chris Bray; Joyce Hastings; Paula McGibbon; Ursula Trueman

Staff: Deb Wynkoop-Green; Joel Hoffman; Bonnie Winter; Colleen Fitzgerald; Julie Nisbet; Wendee Pippy; Susan Riding; Pennie Knudson; Donna Knotts; Sue Kirkham; Carmen Cintron; Tamara Bennett; Rhea Gout; Natalyn Shepherd; Kim Bond; Avis Burrows; Beth Painter; Kim Hood; Louise Frey; Betty Ulwelling; Marcia Crampton; Rebecca Emerson

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m.

1. Welcome and Introduction

Ms. Wynkoop-Green welcomed all in attendance.

Debra Wynkoop-Green requested that the committee amend the agenda to add Iona Thraen, Independent Director Health Systems Improvement.

- 2. Ms. Thraen** offered to provide \$3,000 to have an audit done of the child care rules to prove which rule has scientific evidence. This would be done to assist with and determine which rule Legislation process discusses in the future. An audit may provide solid evidence to support the decisions for rule which was adopted vs opinions which are negotiable.

3. February 2, 1998 Minutes

Ms. Croskell moved to accept the minutes of the February 2, 19978 meeting. Ms. Bitterolf seconded the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

4. Licensure Actions/Sanctions

Mr. Hoffman reviewed the Licensure Actions/Sanctions table that was handed out.

Ms. Croskell asked what DHS & MIS stood for. Mr. Hoffman stated DHS stands for Department of Human Services and MIS stands for Management Information Systems.

Mr. Hoffman also stated that during the months of March and April the Bureau has been focusing on surveying all the family care providers. Approximately 506 inspections were done in March. Also, the Bureau issued over a hundred letters complimenting on providers on having a zero deficiency inspection. The names of the providers will be listed in the Child Care newsletter. Ms. Wynkoop-Green recognized the licensors in the audience, and introduce themselves to the committee members.

Mr. Hoffman reviewed the Survey Evaluation Chart.

5. Operation Plan Outline

Ms. Wynkoop-Green explained there are three sections in the Operation Plan Outline. There is Rule Development, Implementation of Rules and Database Development. SB26, HB346, and SB168 all have specific language which requires the Bureau of Licensing to implement and draft rules regulating the child care industry. Ms. Wynkoop-Green went over the Operation Plan Outline handout.

Ms. Halverson asked what percentage of the providers attended the training meetings. Ms. Wynkoop-Green stated that the percentage differed with each area, however supervisors reported “good” attendance. Ms. Bitterolf feels more on-site training is needed. The regions have completed training on the current rules, but plan to provide additional training with the new rules.

Ms. Croskell asked about which rules will the certified providers be regulated with and Ms. Wynkoop-Green responded stating that new rules will need to be drafted and processed through the normal Rule making process.

6. R430-60 Hourly Care Rules

Ms. Wynkoop-Green and Mr. Springmeyer, Department of Health Legal Counsel, reviewed the proposed hourly care rules. There are five areas that have changed which may impact our discussion from the last meeting.

1. Added a definition of “exempt” programs. There are six areas that are excluded from licensing as an hourly child care program - education institution, part of a procural institution, or if they receive direct/indirect compensation, and if the child care is provided to four or fewer children.
2. The rule combines administration and director qualifications in one section. The rule requires the director to insure that policies exist to adjust the ratios to meet needs of children.
3. The staffing qualifications are consistent with the R430-100 (center rules). Ms. Bitterolf requested the Bureau of Licensing to incorporate the language of the R430-100 rule instead of just referencing the section so that the providers will not have to refer to another rule.
4. The child to staff ratios have significant changes under R430-60-(1). Everything else remains the same.
5. The medication rules were combined.

6. Parent notification and child security then to activities some minor changes were made. Instead of activity plan being required - they must have an array of activities and supplies on hand which are appropriate for whom they accept for care.
7. R430-60(11) fire, sanitation and safety standards were included into one area. Everything else stayed the same.
8. The fifth is the food service area if they are serving food then we would adopt the same standards under the food code for the centers.

Comments from audience

*Ms. Alda Jones, Child Care Resource and Referral, suggested placing the R430-100 rule as an appendix instead of incorporating it into the R430-60 rule.

*Ms. Beverly Welsh, Children's Club - hourly care provider, asked if current providers of hourly care will be "grandfathered." as she hasn't required her managers to have the qualifications listed in the rules; her ratios are currently 1 caregiver to 12 children with only 2 under the age of two.

*Ms. Jones stated she agrees with the ratios and qualifications but suggests grandfathering the currently operating facilities/programs, but with a time limit to meet the qualifications stated in the rules.

Discussion followed.

*Ms. Jones and Ms. Welsh volunteered to help with the audit to do a cost analysis proposed by Mr. Doug Springmeyer.

*Ms. Donna Thomas, Child Care Licensor, asked what the minimum age requirement for the staff will be. Ms. Debra Wynkoop-Green responded saying the recommended age is 18 or 17 graduated.

*Ms. Bitterolf motioned to have the age requirements for the director and staff be written as in R430-100 rules for the R430-60 rules. Ms. Croskell **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

*Mr. Springmeyer reviewed ratios.

Discussion followed.

*Ms. Bitterolf motioned to adopt the rules. Ms. Croskell **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

Ms. Wynkoop-Green stated the rules will be finalized with the amended changes, send them forward through the legal department to Rod Betit. We will be visiting some of the hourly providers, that have filed notices of intent, to discuss the impact to these rules and offer some education so they can make comments back to us. A cost benefit analysis statement will then be done that will go with the filing of the rules. They will be published for 30 days.

7. Discussion & Update of Child Care Categories

*Ms. Wynkoop-Green went over which rules applied to each category: Hourly, Family/Family Group, Centers & Certified.

Discussion followed.

*Ms. Halverson made a motion to amend the ratios for Family to permit 1 caregiver to 8 children with no more than two under 2 years of age. *Ms. Bitterolf **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** with 3 in favor, and 2 abstentions.

8. Update on Child Care Forum on April 3, 1998

Ms. Wynkoop-Green reported on the Child Care Forum.

- Positive Areas Identified

1. Resource and Referral Agencies have become a great asset;
2. Creation of movement of childcare;
3. There are strong childcare advocates;
4. Inter-agency cooperation, working toward a more consistent child care environment;
5. Licensing is tied to Quality;
6. Employer support, training and recognition.

- Barriers identified (issues for development)

1. Low pay, low status of child care environment for providers;
2. Negative attitudes toward working mothers;
3. Lack of affordable placements;
4. Lack of support from the religious community;
5. Attitude of the Legislature to not support child care;
6. Lack of quality care slots;
7. Low parental interest and involvement - de-regulation and confusion;
8. Lack of public awareness;
9. Lack of child care advocates in businesses;
10. Lack of special placements for children with health care needs.

Ms. Wynkoop-Green stated this information will be available in a report in May.

9. Child Care Database

Joel Hoffman went over need for a 90-day plan and tentative use of the Child Care Database. Joel Hoffman stated we received a web page grant and we will have an intern hired by mid-June.

The next meeting was scheduled for June 8, 1998 at 9:00 a.m. in conference room 125 of the Cannon Health Building. Please call Bonnie Winter at 538-9084 and let her know if you are unable to attend.

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Chris Bray, Chairperson

Debra Wynkoop-Green, Executive Secretary